



Wu3a's News August 2025



Worcester u3a's 40th Anniversary

There are only two events left!

Sunday, 10th August – Worcester Show, Pitchcroft.

Saturday, 30th August – Groups' Fair, Nunnery Wood High School, Spetchley Road.

Our showcase event at the Guildhall on 4th July

We had a hugely successful day at the Guildhall on 4th July with over 350 visitors through the door and several memberships taken out on the day. We had some fantastic displays and information thanks to Ian Rowe and Chris Scott of the Oil Painting group, Ruth Saunders, Lin Huckfield, Jan Coopey, Julia Roberts, Lucy Bowen, Hazel Lawrance, Catherine Warren, Pam Furby and Pam Howard of the Garden Club, Tony Sharp of Jazz and Big Bands, Shan South of the 10+ miles walking group and Pauline Wildman, Katherine Finney, Jill Evans and Barbara Evans of the Crafts group. Members of the Backgammon and Bridge 3 Chicago groups were busy playing all day, and not put off by people watching!

Pete Ager led his walkers into the hall after a 5 mile walk to rapturous applause. It was a hot day!

Our fabulous BellyBelles and Spanish Dancers, led by Carol Copson and Christine Tait, put on wonderful dance displays both morning and afternoon. It was joyous.

The day ended with the Mayor, Cllr Dr Matt Lamb, speaking in praise of Worcester u3a for providing opportunities to try new things and carry on learning. Along with the current Chair, Chris Scott, we had formers Chairs, Laurence Wale, Alan Russell, Dennis Chamberlain, Val Hibbitt and Jane Flynn, all saying a few words about their experiences with Wu3a. We also had a former mayor in attendance. Roger Berry is a long-term member and I'm glad to say, in my Bridge group!

Then, we had the cutting and distribution of the celebration cake. It was delicious!

A huge shout out to Pat Davis, who made the day happen, and to her hospitality team – Tricia Currie, Pat Lee, Mary James and Jo Bourne. Apologies if I've missed anyone. We managed to get a full-page write-up in the Worcester News. If you would like to read it, let me know and I will send you a copy of the online version.

Please see a selection of photos from the day at the end of the newsletter.

u3a Renewal Time – from the Membership Secretary

We are almost at the main renewal period (1st August to 30th September) for 2025–2026 for members. For those who joined from 1st June 2025, it will not affect you until next year, whilst for those who joined from 1st June 2024 onwards, this will be the first time of renewing.

I will send out a detailed **Renewal Notice on 1st August** to everyone (via email or by post) and this will give instructions on subscription rates, payment options, including face to face events. Below is a quick summary of information:

Subscription Rates

The annual subscription rates for 2025–26 are:

- **Guest:** £32 – you can join 1 Standard Group;
- **Standard:** £43 – you can join any Standard Group
- **Standard Plus:** £60 – you can join any Standard Group and including the following groups:
Art–Oil Painting; Art in the Jubilee Room; Bridge – all groups except Bridge–Gentle; Film Appreciation; French Back to Basics; French for Fun; and Pickleball
- **Concessionary:** – please contact the Membership Secretary for the renewal process.

Methods of Renewing

The website has been upgraded, under Membership, to include Menu headings for online renewals as well as renewal by post. Please do familiarise yourselves with this information. You will be able to **renew online via the Members' Portal (Beacon)** from 1st August onwards. That is only if you have set up your **Personal Record** and the more people who can renew online the better, as it saves on 'clunky' administration processes. For more information on that, please go to the website (Membership, then Member's Portal).

Similar to last year, there will be an opportunity to pay face to face, at the Groups Fair at the end of August and at different venues in mid–September (the Renewal Notice will contain dates and times).

Methods of Payment

Online via the PayPal function (only need to use their 'Guest' option). This is the best for speed and accuracy.

BACS – Transfer payment to the u3a bank account. You will need to download the information from Renew Membership by Post tab on the Website.

Cheque – this is where the above two options may not be viable for you. If you are unable to download or print off the Renewal Form, then please contact me or renew face to face at one of the events.

Groups Update

Stewart White, Groups Leader Liaison

The Groups Programme for 2025–26 is now live on the Website.

There are 10 new groups on this year's programme. In alphabetical order, they are:

- Adventures on Trains – next trip, Saturday, 2nd August, see website for details
- Birdwatching & Wildlife – August meetings are Wednesday, 13th August and Friday, 22nd August
- Bridge for Beginners – Starts Thursday, 18th September
- Culture Vultures – Book group starting Friday 19th September
- Discovering Classical Music – Starts Wednesday, 24th September
- Evening Walking Group – Wednesday evenings in August and September
- Italian Beyond The Basics – Starts Tuesday, 14th October
- Playful Being – Starts Tuesday, 7th October
- Reading International Novels – Starts Wednesday, 17th September
- Tuesday Tramps Collaborative – Starts Tuesday, 30th September

I would like to thank those members who are making these groups happen. Your efforts are fully appreciated. Your enthusiasm brings these groups to life.

More new groups ?

Thank you to those who responded to last month's newsletter. I am working through the responses and it is most likely that the following groups will start in September and October:

- Adventures on Buses
- Astronomy
- International Food Group

I am just working out the logistics to make them work before contacting those who expressed interest.

Groups Fair – Saturday, 30th August

This will be at Nunnery Wood High School again this year and the doors open at 1030. Please can members review which groups they wish to continue with from September. Should they plan not to return to a group then please update the Group Leader ASAP, so they know what spaces they have available to fill at the Groups Fair.

Walking Groups' News

Tuesday 10+ u3a Walking Group take on "Challenge" to support Scouts

On Saturday 12th July, four members of the Tuesday 10+ u3a Walking Group supported the Hallow Scouts by taking on the "Hallow 12 Parish Challenge".

This involved walking 14 miles. We could have opted to walk further – 18 miles or even chosen to run 26 or 40 miles!! However, we opted for 14 miles which in real terms ended up being 15.3 miles! and just as well we did, as we had not expected to walk in temperatures of 30 degrees or more when we made the commitment a couple of months ago.

We were well looked after by the volunteers when we booked into each of the "check points" to have our registration details scanned (proof that we had done it!) where they supplied us with plenty of fluids, sandwiches, snacks, cake etc.

The commitment to support this important fund-raising event for the Hallow Scouts by paying just £16 each to enter contributes to a substantial amount of money raised to maintain and sustain this very important activity for young people.

What could be better? Seniors enjoying the challenge of a good walk to support young people to develop and achieve their potential through the scouting activities.

In their "thank you" email this morning we were informed that 303 people actually took part on Saturday (originally it was about 400 but obviously some people cancelled due to the hot weather) which was a great turnout. We await to hear what the final amount raised will be, but I understand from previous similar events it does run into thousands of pounds!



Here is a photograph taken of the 4 of us – literally just after we had got back to the finish and were issued with our time (5 hours 53 minutes) (including 3 check point breaks) and our certificates.

Shan South
Worcester u3a Group Leader for Walking Groups

National and Regional Activities

You might be interested to know that the national u3a body organises a number of free online talks via Zoom, on a wide variety of topics, free for u3a members. These range from cookery demonstrations to staying safe online. Here are just a few of the talks this month:

“George Mallory, 1886 – 1924” – Friday, 15th August, 2pm.

“Mindfulness and Compassion meets Poetry” – Monday, 18th August, 2pm.

“Climate Change and Artificial Intelligence” – Monday, 25th August, 10am.

Click on [Online learning](#) to find out more.

If you want to be kept informed about the various events being held you can sign up to receive the national newsletter for u3a stories, events, advice, opportunities and more. Click on [u3a National Newsletter](#).

Plus, a digital version of the u3a Matters magazine (formerly known as Third Age Matters) has been launched. You can now read u3a Matters free online. See <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-matters#taster> for a taster!

If you have something for the next newsletter or questions about anything in this newsletter, please email communications@worcesteru3a.org or leave an answerphone message on **01905 887579**.

P.S For those who have joined our **Facebook group page**, on most group pages, you can decide how you want posts to be sorted. I can't see this as I'm an Administrator, so receive all posts. If you can see a symbol that looks like two black lines with two black dots, the top one to the left and the bottom one to the right, click on that, and you can sort your posts.

